

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01 SCI-06

NIC-01 RSR-01 /085 W

----- 127430

R 030600Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7790

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 7778

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJ: MAO MEETS MORE CHINESE AMERICAN SCIENTISTS, ALONE

REF: HONG KONG 7602

1. FOR THE SECOND TIME IN WEEKS, CHAIRMAN MAO AUGUST 2 AGAIN MET VISITING CHINESE-AMERICAN SCIENTISTS, A HUSBAND-WIFE TEAM OF MEDICAL DOCTORS. AND THIS TIME HE RECEIVED HIS VISITORS WITHOUT PREMEIR CHOU EN-LAI IN ATTENDANCE. THIS IS THE FIRST PUBLICLY REPORTED MAO MEETING WITHOUT CHOU IN RECENT TIMES, AND THE PREMEIR'S ABSENCE WAS FURTHER UNDERSCORED BY NCNA'S MENTION THAT CHOU HAD MET EARLIER WITH THE SAME CHINESE-AMERICAN DOCTORS, LI CHEN-PIEN AND HAN CHIH-TANG AND BY ITS SEPARATE REPORT OF CHOU'S MEETING WITH A JAPANESE GROUP ON THE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 2 (WHILE MAO WAS CONDUCTING HIS MEETING WITH THE CHINESE-AMERICAN COUPLE).

2. NCNA INDICATED THAT PROFESSOR LI IS AN OLD FRIEND OF
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MAO'S FROM HUNAN DAYS, AND THE PRESENCE OF WANG HAI-JUNG, MAO'S

NIECE FROM HUNAN, ALSO GAVE THE MEETING A FAMILY GLOSS. THIS ADDS TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EVENT, A PRIMARY ASPECT OF WHICH SEEMS STRONGLY TO ASSERT THAT MAO IS THE PERSONAL FRIEND OF SCIENCE AND SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE, AND IS UNPROMPTED AND UNMANIPULATED IN THIS BY CHOU.

3. IF THIS INTERPRETATION IS CORRECT, IT WOULD REINFORCE EARLIER SIGNS OF CONTROVERSY OVER LIBERALIZING MOVES IN PRC POLICY TOWARD SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS. HOWEVER, IT MAY ALSO AND MORE IMPORTANTLY SUGGEST THAT CHOU TAKES A SERIOUS VIEW OF THIS CONTROVERSY AS AN ATTACK ON HIMSELF, AND THAT HE IS TAKING ENERGETIC STEPS, WITH MAO'S HELP, TO PUT DOWN HIS CRITICS. CHOU APPEARS STRONG WITH MAO IN HIS CORNER, AND WE NOTE THAT OTHER AUGUST 2 NCNA ITEMS FEATURE PRC SCIENTISTS IN A FAVORABLE LIGHT, INTEGRATING WITH AND LEARNING FROM THE WORKERS. NCNA ALSO APPEARS TO BE PLAYING UP A MAO DICTUM THAT "KNOWLEDGE IS A MATTER OF SCIENCE, AND NO DISHONESTY OR CONCEIT WHATSOEVER IS PERMISSIBLE."

4. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ASPECTS OF THIS MAO MEETING ARE TREATED IN SEPTTEL.
OSBORN

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NNN

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